

NW Breakfast Meeting Mins 03-10-2006

There were 17 attendees at the NW Portland Breakfast meeting today. There were also coffee, bagels, donuts and breakfast sandwiches, which are courtesy of Con-Way Transportation.

New Suggested Topics:

- 1. How to insulate the development team when requirements are unclear**
- 2. Keeping projects on-track during and after a re-org**
3. Politics with Project Management and change in structure on team
4. Gating

How to insulate the development team when requirements are unclear

- Define a process
 - Business super users
 - IT support
- Is there a cost to developers for not following a process?
 - Provide incentives to stay on track
 - Give them a way to say no or to pass the out of scope/project request on
 - Self-interest rules
- Talk with management about impact of direct communication between user and developer
- Help the company understand the impact to projects when interruptions occur frequently
- Have regular meetings with management to prioritize requests

Keeping projects on track during and after a re-org

Previous organizational structure had matured in the area of project management. A recent re-organization decentralizes the project managers effectively separating them into the functional organizations. There is a fear that the processes and maturity of project management will deteriorate without a central focus.

- Keep the team working as a team
- Need to overcome silos – weekly conferences with other groups
- Help management determine how to measure success
- Recognize the difference between Change vs. Transition – Change is an event, transition is a process and occurs over time. Transition occurs as a result of a change. Change needs to be managed.
- Do damage control – Work to keep processes in place

Requested topics for next time

Risk identification /risk quantification technique
Managing remote teams